

WARRIOR LEADER

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Operation Warrior Forge

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INSIDE:

**Cool Heads Prevail at FLRC
Patrolling STX: Putting It Together
Close-Quarters Combat
33 Days Toward Combat Ready**

Second Lt. Jacquelyn Ashford (left), formerly a Weber State University student, completed Warrior Forge with 1st Regiment and received her gold bars July 4 during a commissioning ceremony here.

U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. John Landry



Army an amalgam of diverse individuality

By Col. Steven Corbett
Warrior Forge Commander

One of my greatest inspirations during Warrior Forge is the opportunity to witness firsthand the complexity and variety of America that our cadets reflect. You come from all across the Nation to this, the "Great Mixmaster" of Warrior Forge.

We have cadets born in numerous foreign countries, from Albania to Zambia; and academic majors from accounting to zoology. Combat veterans, a ballerina, a state legislator,



and ordained ministers – all coming from the 50 states and two territories, to be dealt out like playing cards into squads and platoons.

You come to Fort Lewis in pursuit of a common dream: to serve the Nation and our People as officers in the United States Army. I speak at the Regimental Affiliation Ceremonies about "that marvelous human tapestry that is America." Every day, I see that reflected in the faces and nametapes of every platoon at Warrior Forge.

As you work together to achieve your dream, you share little bits and pieces of one another. Your hometowns, your language, your culture – especially your favorite foods, are all eventually understood by one another. You are learning how big and diverse America truly is, and how strong that makes us as a people.

For some of you, this is your first journey outside your home state. It's the first time that you've ever met anyone from "X" place, or of "Y" religion. Savor this experience. Learn from it, because the soldiers that you hope to lead in the very near future will reflect this same diversity, complexity and variety.

The Army is a fascinating place to learn about people. As leaders, we have to forge winning teams out of very diverse, multi-cultural individuals. Our Nation is strengthened by our diversity. Your Warrior Forge squad and platoons are too.

E pluribus unum ... Out of many, one.

BEYOND THE FORGE

REAL-LIFE STORIES of YOUNG ARMY LIEUTENANTS

First Lt. Gianni Giannandrea received his commission from San Diego State University after earning a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration.

Giannandrea branched field artillery and attended Officer's Basic Course in Fort Sill, Okla., following a 90-day period as a Goldbar Recruiter. He completed follow-on training at the U.S. Army Ranger School, where he received the Tex Turner Award for outstanding officer leadership.

Preparing to complete his PCS move to the 25th Infantry Division (Light), Giannandrea was assigned to F Battery, 7th Field Artillery, the Division's General Support, M198 Howitzer Battery. This assignment came with word that the battery would be giving up their guns for M120 mortars and a deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Needing training on the mortar system, F Battery was sent to Fort Benning for the Infantry Mortar Leaders Course.

In March, Giannandrea was deployed as the advanced party platoon leader, leading his mortar platoon to Afghanistan. Initially, the unit passed through Kandahar Airfield to Forward Operating Base Salerno. They began combat operations immediately and spent 21 of 33 days outside the wire of the FOB before the main body of F Battery deployed.

After three months at Salerno, Giannandrea's commander sent him to lead a provisional infantry platoon at Kandahar Airfield.

Immediately making an impact on TF Steel's operations in area, F Battery's provisional infantry became the Task Force's main effort on night vehicle check points, the first-ever dismounted patrol in Kandahar City, and a raid that resulted in recovering recoilless rifles poised to be used against coalition forces. Following more than 40 mounted and dismounted combat patrols, Giannandrea and F Battery received a change of mission directed by the CJTF-76 commander, Maj. Gen. Eric Olson. The mission change called for the immediate need and employment of the F Battery's M198 Howitzers to ensure secure and successful elections in the Khost Bowl of Afghanistan.

Given less than two weeks to retrain, account

for equipment, and move from Kandahar back to FOB Salerno, F Battery received their "Big Guns" directly from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. As firing platoon leader, Giannandrea took control of the training and certification of three Howitzers, and successfully moved his 36 Soldiers to the FOB.

Immediately following the move, F Battery fired more than 100 lethal rounds during numerous rocket attacks on coalition forces designed to destabilize the election process. Following less than a month on the ground at the FOB near Khost, where known anti-governmental forces had been moving between Afghanistan and the border region with Pakistan, the province had safe local and governmental elections.

As the winter months slowed fighting near the FOB, Giannandrea began supporting Operational Detachment Alphas by moving M198 Howitzers forward of the FOB more than 30 kilometers. This move provided lethal and non-lethal artillery fires to border checkpoints, enabling the ODA to fix, overwhelm and destroy Taliban and other enemy fighters during four major attacks on the BCPs.

By the end of the 13-month deployment to Afghanistan, Giannandrea was made the firing platoon commander of all six Howitzers and 74 Soldiers. Throughout the deployment, his advanced party platoon fired 129 M120 mortar rounds, 29 of which were done forward of the FOB, successfully destroying enemy forces.

After moving to Kandahar, Giannandrea's provisional infantry platoon recovered enemy mortar caches, two recoilless rifles and ammunition, grenades, opium – and located three IED's along their routes.

Following the battery's mission change back to their role as the "Big Guns" Battery, Gianni's M198 Howitzers fired more than six hundred 155mm rounds, both lethal and non-lethal, destroying enemy fighters, rocket and mortar locations, and providing a blanket of security for Marine, Army Special Forces, and Afghanistan's own military forces. Despite enduring 29 rocket attacks and three mortar attacks, some of which landed less than 50 meters from their positions, Giannandrea lost no soldiers during the deployment.



Col. Steven R. Corbett

Commander

Western Region, U.S. Army Cadet Command

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FORGING WARRIORS: 33 days toward combat ready lieutenants

By Spc. Garth Gehlen

304th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Warrior Forge, the training today known as the Leadership Development and Assessment Course, has undergone many changes since its inception – and so has Army ROTC.

However, it remains a valuable training opportunity for those who will lead America's sons and daughters in combat.

The training, 33 days long for ROTC cadets, is designed to first develop individual Soldier skills and then team and leadership skills. The ability of the cadets to incorporate and apply their individual skills into their leadership training is paramount.

"I'd always pictured myself serving," said Cadet Jeremy McCool from the University of Central Oklahoma, "When 9/11 hit, that confirmed it for me." McCool joined ROTC after serving as an enlisted Soldier in the Oklahoma Army National Guard.

"I wanted to learn how to be a follower before I became a leader," said McCool, who finished his service in the National Guard as a specialist.

Cadet Erin Rice from Jacksonville State University said she has always been active and into sports and thought joining ROTC would be a challenge. Her husband is in the military, which exposed her to the Army lifestyle. Rice is a nurse who plans to continue along the medical path in the Army.

"Save one life and you're a hero, save one hundred lives and you're a nurse," she said, "Save one hero's life and you're an Army nurse."

Both McCool and Rice were impressed with the training and the training cadre at Warrior Forge.

"They really reinforce what you've learned (on campus)," Rice said.

"The level of professionalism is amazing," McCool said, "The cadre took their jobs seriously, and that made us take it seriously."

McCool said the most difficult part of the training



U.S. Army photo by Al Zdarsky

Maj. Gen. W. Montague Winfield, who took command of Cadet Command last month, pins an award on a 1st Regiment Cadet Vincent Annunziato, Seton Hall University at graduation July 4.

was the 10-day field training exercise. Besides the physical demands of ruck marching and patrolling, the sleep deprivation and lack of adequate nutrition made it mentally tough as well, he said.

Rice agreed the field training was physically the most challenge portion of the training, but said the separation from her family was mentally the most difficult for her.

"I'm married and have a daughter," she said, "Being here is a real gut check."

Both cadets feel they are prepared to take on leadership roles in the Army as a result of their training.

"It's overwhelming to know I could have up to

55 Soldiers that I am in charge of," said McCool, "I feel in my mind I will be able to do my job. When it comes time, I'll be able to complete the mission."

The 33 days spent at Warrior Forge, an important step in the cadets' development, is designed to impart attitudes just like McCool's.

"The goal is developing the best lieutenants for the Army," said Maj. Robert Geddis, Deputy Chief of Training for Warrior Forge. "We identify the skills necessary and we incorporate that into our training."

"We want them to have the necessary skills," Geddis said. "These are the Soldiers who are going to be leading our sons and daughters in combat. The tougher we make it here, the better it will be for them."

This type of training is designed to prepare the cadets for the very real possibility of leading Soldiers in combat.

"A lot of these cadets will be second lieutenants in Baghdad or Mosul next year," said Capt. Todd Eckstein, a training officer at Warrior Forge.

Cadets are evaluated in skill application and leadership ability in the field and in garrison. The same evaluations are given to every cadet regardless of prior experience.

"We train every cadet the same way," said Geddis, "It is important for us to know who are the most capable cadets. The leaders counsel the cadets and let them know their strengths and weaknesses."

Geddis also said the training is constantly improving. It's important, he added, to look at the training – see what is working and what is not.

The situation on today's battlefield also has played a part in how the training is done, he said. Last minute changes are made to missions and orders on the field training exercises to see how the cadets will react. The cadets also have to react to improvised explosive devices, civilians on the battlefield and opposing forces who act like insurgents in the Middle East.

"We're trying to make the training as realistic as possible," Geddis said.

Maximizing spiritual fitness helps set leadership standard for Soldiers

By 1st Lt. Andrew Bloomfield

Warrior Forge Chaplain

We are all very familiar with the APFT and the high physical standards this sets for the Army. It can be difficult to make time for PT during the high tempo of Warrior Forge and the constant demands on the schedule of cadets and cadre alike.

Equally important – if not more – is our spiritual fitness. When we neglect our spiritual health, our entire life can begin to unravel. We become less focused and more distracted, less patient and more irritable, less motivated and more discouraged – we become less of a team player and more of an individual.

Maintaining spiritual fitness is not

only an important part of developing character as an officer, it is an essential aspect of life itself.

The five following key checkpoints will help you examine your spiritual life and achieve a high level of spiritual fitness, improving your relationship with God and your fellow Soldiers. They are prayer, repentance, forgiveness, love and fellowship. By examining these areas of life, we can assess our spiritual health and make course corrections to get back on track.

Prayer is simply speaking with God. Memorized prayers can play an important role, but talking with God is the essence of prayer. Listening is also a vital element of prayer. Reading Scripture is an excellent way to encounter God in your life. Whatever

the method, spend some time in prayer every day, both in the morning and the evening.

Repentance means asking forgiveness from God and our neighbor. This restores broken relationships and requires a great deal of humility. Be ready to ask forgiveness for sin.

We must also be willing to offer forgiveness to those who ask. Be quick to forgive those who have wronged you, mindful of God's mercy to all.

Love for our neighbor engages us in works of mercy or charity. We must allow the interior graces of our spiritual life to work in the world. All the warm fuzzies of a great experience in prayer are meaningless if they don't change our lives for the better, increasing our love of God and love of neighbor.

Finally, we need to experience fellowship with others. They don't need to be from the same denomination, but they must share a commitment to hold each other accountable to maintaining spiritual fitness. Sharing our faith – the high points and the low points – can make a tremendous difference in helping us to grow in virtue and remain spiritually fit.

Remember these five areas of spiritual fitness: prayer, repentance, forgiveness, love and fellowship. Examine them in your own life and put them into practice. As future commissioned officers, be willing to set the standard high for your Soldiers and share the journey of faith with them. Be ready, willing, and able to maximize your spiritual fitness.



U.S. Army photos by Al Zdarsky

Quick decisions at FLRC prepare cadets for battlefield

By 2nd Lt. John Landry
Warrior Forge Public Affairs

Evaluation is a word used freely here at Warrior Forge. As cadets ruck to the Field Leaders Reaction Course, thoughts of their next evaluation are prominent.

This training day was made to "give the cadets one of their first field evaluations and elevate their leadership abilities," said 2nd Lt. Chris Richelderfer, an FLRC lane evaluator.

At first glance the FLRC course appears to be a maze built for the sole purpose of confusing Warrior Forge cadets. However, this team building training site offers more than problem solving. It offers a chance for a squad to develop into an effective unit.

Every squad member has the opportunity to be squad leader, which allows the squad to learn each person's leadership style. They rotate squad leaders in the same manner they rotate lanes. Each squad is given an FLRC lane evaluator who writes all the evaluations and provides leadership guidance to the squad leader and team building guidance to the squad.

"It allows a squad to build as a team and think outside the box while giving and receiving suggestions in a tactful manner," Richelderfer said.

Day 16, the FLRC, for Warrior Forge cadets offers another opportunity to learn – for cadre to develop the Army's future leaders. Richelderfer said it takes practice, calibration and communication with fellow cadre to make sure they evaluate cadets fairly – so every cadet gets the same assessment.



FLRC is more than a big maze. What if your platoon needs to get ammunition, fuel or other critical supplies past an obstacle on the battlefield? The cadets above have just practiced for that eventuality.



"The hypotenuse of the plank is equal to the quadrangle times the weight of my squad leader divided my APFT score ..."

Teamwork, plus mental and physical prowess are important tools for solving equations at the Field Leaders Reaction Course.



Leading warriors through the Forge

By 2nd Lt. Stephen Stock
Warrior Forge Public Affairs

Question: After having been out in the field for six days enjoying Washington's natural beauty, what's another three days?

Answer: Patrolling STX. Patrolling Situational Training Exercise is a three-day field event that allows cadets to use the 24 or so days they up to now have spent in training at Warrior Forge.

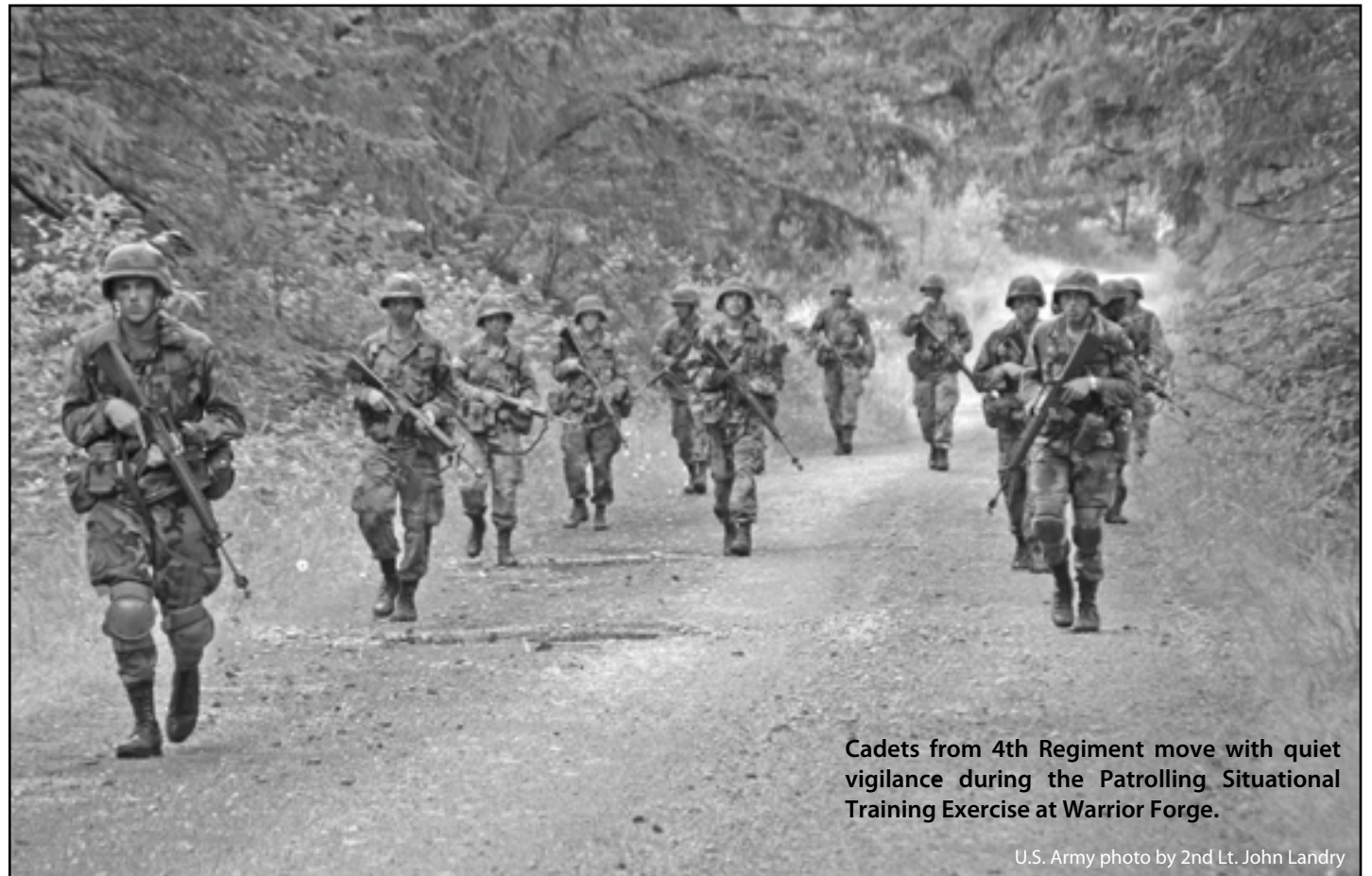
It is here that cadets begin to truly get a taste of the demands of being in charge of something bigger than a squad-sized element. Cadets must use all their prior training to succeed in the execution of their operation orders, specialty teams, troop leading procedures and individual movement techniques.

"It gives the cadets a chance to adapt to situations that are fluid, to be able to make decisions, and then give orders to their peers while in a leadership position to accomplish a mission," said Lt. Col. William Dickens, officer in charge of the cadre's Team Panther.

Within each patrol are two squads combined from the same platoon. Each patrol has a patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, and two squad leaders. This is the last evaluated event for cadets. Each cadet will be evaluated at one of these positions. In addition to more people, each patrol has two radio operators, an M60 machine gunner, and an assistant gunner who carries an extra barrel and ammo.

Each day during this phase of training, cadets will conduct two patrols, which will vary in mission from setting up an ambush, dealing with foreign-speaking opposing forces and helicopter missions. The greatest change for cadets will be the longer STX lanes. Gone are the 300 to 500 meter lanes. A lane for Patrolling STX can vary in distances from 2,000 to 4,000 meters. After two Patrol STX have been conducted the cadets will then set up a patrol base for the night. While in the patrol base cadets establish priorities of work consisting of eating, sleeping, security, and most importantly cleaning weapons.

A new emphasis this year has been placed more on military operations in urban terrain, also known as MOUT.



Cadets from 4th Regiment move with quiet vigilance during the Patrolling Situational Training Exercise at Warrior Forge.

U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. John Landry

No longer must cadets focus just on clearing military bunkers, but now clearing civilian dwellings as well.

"We are trying to portray the contemporary operating environment where lieutenants are now leading platoons around the world in Afghanistan and Iraq," Dickens explained. "These one-room buildings are our chance to practice room-clearing and raid missions on the objective."

Patrolling STX is not just all long road marches, security patrols and killing bad guys – it's where the team-oriented bonding that takes place over three weeks of training begins to show.

Cadets really get the opportunity to know each other and themselves. It's common to find cadets talking about hilarious events throughout camp to keep the mood light.

After Patrol STX wraps up on Day 28, the only thing standing between the cadets and graduation is equipment turn-in and the regimental run.

"If (cadets) leave here having learned something about being a leader, assessing the situation and how to react to it – as long as they are better leaders than when they were walking in, that's what we are after," Dickens said.



U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Stephen Stock

Cadets begin their Patrolling STX adventures inserted into the field by helicopter. In the days that follow, they encounter ambushes by opposing forces, plus tasks to clear civilian dwellings, administer first aid and use weapons and radios to display their proficiency.



U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Melinda Walden



CLOSE-UP COMBAT

New training model
presents modern
hand-to-hand
skills

Cadet Adam Mayatt, 1st Regiment, starts with the advantage as he practices hand-to-hand combat techniques with a fellow cadet during combatives training, a new addition to Warrior Forge this year.

U.S. Army photo by Al Zdarsky

By 2nd Lt. Will Brown
Warrior Forge Public Affairs

Close the distance, gain the dominant position and finish the fight. This is the basic fight strategy that the U.S. Combative Arts Association strives to teach today's Soldier.

Warrior Forge 2005 marks the beginning of a new era in which cadets are brought back to some of the most fundamental aspects of being a warrior – the ability to fight hand-to-hand against the enemy.

Cadets of Warrior Forge 2005 return from the rigors of 11 days in the field and complete combatives training on Day 30.

Equipped with a mouth piece and their own two hands, they observe demonstrations on the proper way to administer moves such as the cross-collar choke, rear naked choke and escaping the mount. After watching the demonstrators, cadets are partnered up and given the opportunity to practice the moves on each other with the guidance of the combatives committee.

"The combatives training was very beneficial and was one of the most important things that we did at Warrior Forge," said Cadet Sara Winkler, 1st Regiment. "Its applications can be utilized whether we go to Iraq or not. I had heard a lot about it, but

never before had the opportunity to participate in that type of training."

Weeks prior to the first day of cadet combat familiarization, the cadre of the combatives committee received Level 1 combatives certification from Robert Owens and Eric Dahlberg, local jujitsu instructors contracted to do the training. This certification provides the knowledge of fighting tactics necessary to teach soldiers at the platoon level.

There are two advanced skill levels of combatives certification. Level 2 certification provides soldiers with knowledge of advanced techniques previously learned at skill Level 1, trains how to teach skill Level 1 classes, and teaches how to referee combatives tournaments. Skill Level 3 prepares soldiers to teach skill Level 2 certification classes, and is a one month course that emphasizes combative integration into standard battle drills.

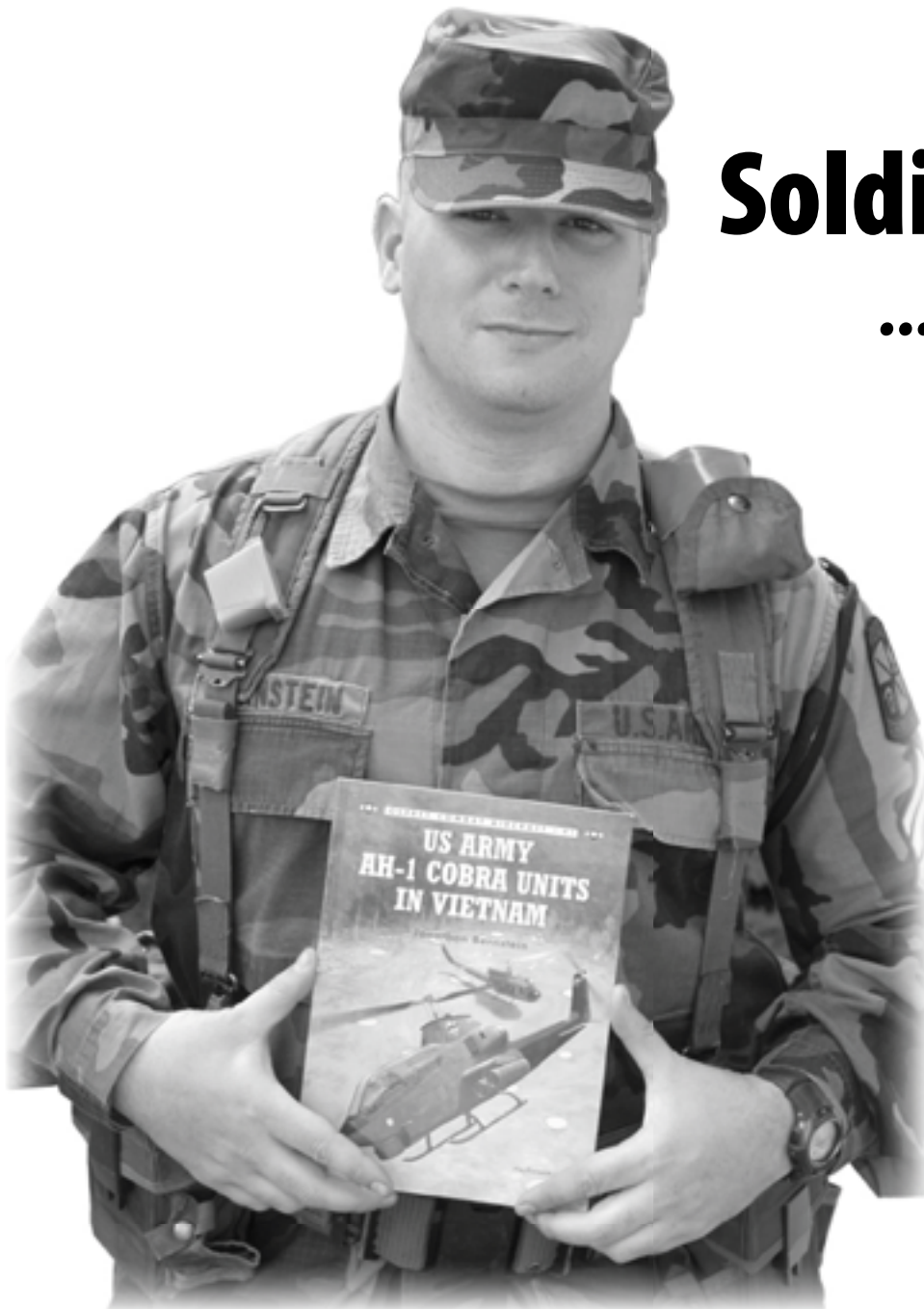
Organized fighting dates back more than four thousand years. Modern Army combatives training began in 1995 when the commander of the 2nd Ranger Battalion, Lt. Col. Stan McChrystal, ordered the implementation of advanced combatives training for his regiment. While it was a success, the hard-learned lesson was that old techniques of Army combatives training would not work on today's battlefield, and it was ineffective at teaching the

average soldier at a broad level.

Staff Sgt. Matt Larsen headed a committee to revamp Army combatives training. They started by studying countries that had successful combatives programs like Japan, Thailand and Korea. These countries were successful because their culture emphasizes combatives training at an early age and it is easy to build upon. The only country that had implemented combatives training to an entirely untrained army was Russia. After vigorous research and tweaking of Basic Brazilian Jujitsu as the foundation of Army hand-to-hand combat training, Field Manual 3-25.150 was published as the official guide to Army Combatives.

Modern Army Combatives is extremely important to today's Army and in the training of its future leaders. We live and fight on a battlefield that is ever evolving. Soldiers must be prepared to face challenging scenarios that may not involve lethal actions.

Larsen suggests that we should subdue our enemy when afforded the opportunity, and that lethal force is not the best force for all situations. Army Combatives trains the future Army leaders to be less reliant on their technologies and weapons systems, and rely on their warrior instinct. To close the distance, gain the dominant position, and finish the fight.



U.S. Army photo by Bob Rosenburgh

Cadet Jonathon Bernstein, 5th Regiment, displays his book about Cobra helicopters in Vietnam for the photographer – who, incidentally, served in Vietnam and has a book of his own about the Cobras that flew in that conflict.

By Bob Rosenburgh

Warrior Forge Public Affairs

Most cadets at Warrior Forge are embarking upon their first career in pursuit of becoming Army officers, but one 5th Regiment cadet has already made his mark in several professional fields of endeavor.

As an SMP cadet from 2nd Battalion, 147th Infantry in the Texas National Guard, Jonathon Bernstein is also completing a degree in military history at Texas Tech University.

Early in life, though, he developed a love of aviation. This fascination was put to use a staffer in the New Jersey Aviation Hall of Fame and Museum when he was a key member of a team restoring an Army AH-1F Cobra helicopter. He worked in several aviation museums in the east, including the National Warplane Museum and the Intrepid Museum in New York City.

Soldier, historian, author ... and Warrior Forge cadet!

His fascination with flight continued to grow, so he wrote a book titled U.S. Army AH-1 Cobra Units in Vietnam (Osprey, 2003). That book, which is considered a valuable reference tool for both historical research and details for scale modelers, was such a success that Osprey commissioned him for a follow-on work, U.S. Army AH-64 Apache Units in Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. That makes Bernstein a twice-published international author, since Osprey's titles are sold around the globe.

And now he's well on the way to making history as well writing about it. Bernstein plans to branch Aviation and train to fly the AH-64 Apache himself, a goal which may well place him in the world's hot spots in the near future.

"I just got my letter of acceptance to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 104th Attack Aviation in the Pennsylvania National Guard," he said.

Bernstein's successes come from setting goals and sticking to them, such as a promise to himself to get published by the time he was 30.

"The Cobra book came out about two weeks before my 30th birthday," he recalled, "so I made that goal." And since his love of aviation focused on attack aircraft, he planned on getting that experience as well. "And that's pretty much why I'm doing what I'm doing."

It's a tall order, but Bernstein is no stranger to overcoming obstacles.

"Writing the books was a challenge in itself," he said, "because the pilots were less accessible than the Cobra pilots were." In fact, his first plan was a book on Huey gunships, but on contact with the publisher he found they wanted a Cobra book, so Bernstein shifted gears and jumped on the opportunity. "I got in touch with the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and various unit associations and from there, it just took off ... literally."

He said he interviewed more than 130 pilots and crews chiefs about their experiences from 1965 through 1973. The book was profusely illustrated with photos he was given by his contacts, Bell Helicopter, VHPA members and graphics by Osprey staff.

"The unit I had the most contact with was the Blue Max Aerial Rocket Artillery," and basically I'm their unit historian now." His next book will be the story of that unit, which evolved from the 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery to its current designation as Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment. His contacts with Blue Max led to the Apache book. Bernstein will be commissioned on July 16 upon completion of Warrior Forge.

"From here I'll head back to Lubbock to pack up my gear," he said, "then head to New York for a little more than a month before reporting to Fort Rucker in October." He said flight training will be followed by Apache transition and then he'll be a pilot in 1/104th.

Bernstein plans to marry in August, yet another one of his many goals that will certainly end in success.

**Bernstein's successes
come from setting goals
and sticking to them,
such as a promise to
himself to get published
by the time he was 30.**



Cadet's web site is portal for Soldiers' support

By 2nd Lt. Melinda Walden

Warrior Forge Public Affairs

Out of many, one. Cadet Juan Salas from 9th Regiment believes that even though American Soldiers are scattered all over the world, they can be united by the kindness and support of the citizens back home.

Fresh off a 14 month tour in Iraq, then-sergeant Juan Salas returned to school at Manhattanville College and joined the local ROTC program at Fordham University. Salas saw people wearing Lance Armstrong "Live Strong" bracelets and wondered where the ones to support the Soldiers were.

He quickly approached one of his professors and the college president. Together they developed the idea for a pen pal program to support the troops that are deployed and away from their families.

Salas named the program MySoldier. Each new participant receives a red bracelet that represents the blood and spirit of the armed services deployed and the name of a Soldier to correspond with.

The program has a much greater meaning than just letter writing. Salas explained that it was meant so that an



U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Melinda Walden

Cadet Juan Salas, 9th Regiment, founded *MySoldier.com*, a web site that lets the public "adopt" Soldiers. More than 350,000 people have signed up to do so.

everyday civilian could help Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan through the difficulty of deployment and family separation.

"They become your Soldier," Salas said. "You can send them items that you want for encouragement or just things they need."

"It's great work. Great for the troops and good for the United States. A lot of

people want to help out and just don't know how, and a lot of people are very patriotic and the troops appreciate that."

The program is now sponsoring 150,000 soldiers from all services branches, and has over 350,000 registered supporters from all 50 states and three countries that want to adopt a soldier or help. MySoldier has also

raised over \$150,000 for the troops. The money is used to produce care packages for the soldiers and to ship them to the deployed troops.

Not all deployed Soldiers have a pen pal, so a platoon sergeant who may receive numerous care packages in the mail from MySoldier is free to distribute them to Soldiers who don't get a lot of mail and need to feel supported by those back home in the states.

"The goal is support," Salas explained, "to remind the soldiers what they are fighting for and to show them that they are loved by someone back home."

Salas was recognized for his support for the troops and received an award from A&E and the History Channel entitled "Lives That Make a Difference," and was nominated for numerous others.

MySoldier shows that one small gesture of support can turn into a national phenomenon that can bring people together in a big way and make them one family. E pluribus unum. Out of many, one.

To adopt a Soldier, surf to <http://www.mysoldier.com>.

Military ceremonies anchored in tradition

By Lt. Col. Roderick Hosler

Special Events Committee

What's with all of the ceremonies, parades and marching around Soldiers do, especially here at Warrior Forge? It's military tradition, steeped in history and training.

Prior to the 18th century, drill was instruction in battlefield combat. With the invention of the musket as an infantry weapon, an employment technique was needed to maximize the effectiveness of this revolutionary weapon.

Muskets only fired a single shot and had to be reloaded after each discharge. Getting the most of your muskets and movement on the battlefield was important to the field commander, and meant the difference between victory or defeat. Effective use of firepower and battlefield maneuver was a combat force multiplier.

Frederick the Great of Prussia developed a system of drills to improve not only the effectiveness of mass musket fire, but also the movement of formations of soldiers around the battlefield. His drills became the first organized and logical system of battlefield drills.

Baron Frederick Von Stuben brought this

system to George Washington's Continental Army in 1777, which helped the Continentals defeat the British and gain American independence.

Today the U.S. Army uses drill to enhance the method and conduct of ceremonies, and to instill discipline and obedience to orders. This includes daily formation and unit operations. Ceremonies are not just used at Arlington's Tomb of the Unknowns, a Presidential Inauguration, or a unit change of command, but anywhere tradition of the service to honor selected individuals and events are required.

At Warrior Forge, formal ceremonies are used for the activation of the cadet regiment and at graduation and commissioning. Much "pomp and circumstance" is used at the regimental graduation ceremony that includes a military band, inspection of the unit by a visiting dignitary, presentation of the colors and awardees, commissioning of new Army second lieutenants, a pass in review and deactivation of the regiment.

The spectacle of a finely executed military ceremony is impressive and memorable. It is the culmination of soldierly professionalism and tradition that identify to the spectator the American military at its best.

